

CLASSIFICATION ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ CONTROL/US OFFICIALS ONLYCOUNTRY Soviet Zone of Germany REPORTTOPIC Military Information from Stendal

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EVALUATION [REDACTED] PLACE OBTAINED [REDACTED]

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DATE OF CONTENT [REDACTED]DATE OBTAINED [REDACTED] DATE PREPARED 19 May 1950REFERENCES [REDACTED]PAGES 5 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) [REDACTED]REMARKS [REDACTED]

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The following observations were made in Stendal (in 5L/Y 85) between 16 March and 1 April 1950:

1. Tauentzien Kaserne:

a. Occupied by 1,200 troops, allegedly belonging to the following units:

(1) Unit of 350 to 400 troops, mostly recruits, wearing black-bordered crimson epaulets.

(2) Unit of 350 to 400 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets.

(3) Military band.

(4) Presumably two units totaling 350 to 400 troops, about 60 percent of whom wore black-bordered crimson epaulets and about 40 percent red-bordered black epaulets, with some of the officers wearing rank insignia.

(5) A platoon or, at the most, a company with red-bordered black epaulets.

b. A convoy of 1 passenger car and 14 trucks occupied by about 300 troops wearing black-bordered crimson epaulets entered the barracks on 17 March 1950. The following trucks were identified:

[REDACTED] with mounted AA machine gun

[REDACTED] towing a field kitchen

[REDACTED] with mounted AA machine gun

[REDACTED] with mounted 20-mm AA gun

[REDACTED] towing a 45-mm AT gun.

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Two more vehicles [REDACTED] also towed 45-mm AT guns. Passenger car [REDACTED] was driven in the rear.

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c. The motor vehicles [redacted] previously seen only in the Hindenburg Kaserne, now drove into the Tauntzien Kaserne.

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d. The following vehicles were observed in barracks traffic:

[redacted]

trucks

passenger car
truck
jeep
truck

trucks

[redacted]

trucks

passenger car

trucks

passenger car

trucks

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2. Hindenburg Kaserne:

a. Occupied by about 1,500 troops, including recruits, allegedly belonging to the following units:

(1) Unit of 500 to 600 troops, wearing red-bordered black epaulets, including a battalion or regimental headquarters.

(2) One light battery with personnel wearing red-bordered black epaulets, some with artillery insignia, belonging to the artillery unit in the Albrecht der Baer Kaserne.

(3) Infantry unit of 700 to 800 troops wearing black-bordered crimson epaulets.

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b. Two convoys of 22 and 16 trucks entered the barracks at 9 p.m. on 21 March 1950. Each truck was occupied by about 20 soldiers.

[redacted]

c. Some trucks [redacted] towed two 76.2-mm AT guns and three 45-mm AT guns.

d. Trucks [redacted] loaded with ammunition boxes, and coming from the direction of Magdeburg, entered the Hindenburg Kaserne on six evenings. Coming from the direction of Magdeburg, truck [redacted] towing a 75-mm AT gun and occupied by about 25 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets, entered the barracks area at 6 p.m. on 16 March 1950. Also coming from the direction of Magdeburg truck [redacted] occupied by 20 soldiers, drove into the barracks area about the same time on 18 March 1950. These were the first motor vehicles [redacted]

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[redacted] to be observed in the Hindenburg

Kaserne.

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e. Motor vehicles
in barracks traffic:

observed

truck
ambulance
ambulance
truck
truck
passenger cartruck
ambulance
passenger car
truck
ambulance

trucks

trucks

passenger car

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3. Albrecht der Baer Kaserne including the Soviet residential area:

a. Occupied by 3,000 to 3,500 troops, allegedly belonging to the following units:

(1) High unit headquarters, allegedly a corps headquarters, on Hardenbergstrasse in the center of the Soviet residential area.

(2) Tank unit of 400 to 500 troops, allegedly three companies, with the fourth company quartered in the Taubentzen Kaserne.

(3) Artillery unit headquarters, presumably a regimental headquarters.

(4) Artillery unit, at least one battalion if not a regiment, including the artillery unit in the Hindenburg Kaserne.

(5) Corps headquarters unit.

(6) Soviet civilians and dependents.

b. Five JS tanks, coming from the direction of Magdeburg, entered the barracks on 22 March 1950. Trucks [redacted]

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[redacted] coming from the direction of Magdeburg, entered the barracks area at 1 p.m. on 30 March 1950. Each truck towed a 45-mm AT gun and was occupied by about 20 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets and having boxes and mattresses with them.

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c. Two columns of about 150 troops each marched out of the barracks about 7:30 a.m. on 31 March 1950, going to the Arnim training grounds where they held a field exercise directed by a lieutenant colonel riding in passenger car [redacted] the troops returned to the barracks in the evening.

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4. a. Motor vehicles, usually occupied by 20 to 25 soldiers, were recently observed to leave the barracks at dawn, head toward Magdeburg and return at nightfall. They allegedly went to the Jolle troop training grounds near Magdeburg. They moved individually or in small convoys.
- b. Before 5 April 1950 most of the Stendal troops left the post heading toward Magdeburg or heading north while new units coming from the direction of Magdeburg, moved into the Stendal barracks. Great use was made of disguise so that only an attentive observer could perceive the changes. All troops, whether incoming or outgoing, were transported on motor vehicles of the Stendal military post. The vehicles were taken over by the new units so that no motor vehicles other than **those previously** observed appeared in city traffic. The troops who left Stendal did not take heavy weapons with them but the arriving troops brought some AT guns with them. The newly arrived units were about 60 percent inexperienced soldiers and about 40 percent war veterans, the former not giving the impression of recruits. The troops in the Taunentzien Kaserne were estimated at about 1,000, those in the Hindenburg Kaserne at about 1,300 and those in the Albrecht der Baer Kaserne at about 3,000. The troops in the entire military post, including the airfield, were estimated at 8,000 to 8,500.

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Comment:

a. Periodic reports did not indicate any change in the occupation of Stendal until the second half of March 1950. Component units of the 207th Mtz Rifle Div (presumably two motorized rifle regiments) were stationed in the Taubentzien Kaserne and the Hindenburg Kaserne. Other component units of this division (Tank/SP Arty Regt and Gun (AT) Arty Regt ?) and the Hq LXIX Mtz Rifle Corps with headquarters units were in the Albrecht der Baer Kaserne.

b. The Stendal troop movements after the end of March 1950 are somewhat obscure. If there were actually "new units", they may have come to Stendal prior to their transfer to troop training grounds (Wetzling Heath?).

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A possibility is that soldiers of the Stendal military post left to be demobilized while replacements came in (outgoing soldiers headed toward Magdeburg and north). Similar observations were made in Potsdam in early April 1950.

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